



WWF Arctic Council Conservation Scorecard II - 2019 edition

Project

Duration

Apr 2018 - May 2019

How can we improve policy monitoring of national implementation to further protect the Arctic environment and its inhabitants? With the WWF Arctic Council Scorecards, Ecologic Institute and WWF International Arctic Programme continue and update the overview of the implementation status of specific recommendations by the Arctic Council with a particular focus on maritime activities, climate change and biodiversity protection as well as ecosystem-based management.

The Arctic Council and Transparency of Implementation

The Arctic Council provides a forum for scientific cooperation and policy exchange for already more than 20 years. In this time, the forum's working groups have provided substantial insights into the threats that Arctic regions face and into the extent of available knowledge. The WWF Arctic Council Scorecards aim to increase transparency in order to enhance further implementation and accountability of Arctic Council decisions. In this project, Ecologic Institute updated the Scorecard methodology and the underlying research for the indicators for the WWF International Arctic Programme.

Over the years, the Arctic Council's work plans have included landmark publications and reports that are based on scientific evidence and often include policy recommendations suggested to and approved by the Arctic Council member states. The forum has shown its openness for a translation from science to (international) policy. The Arctic Council's active work via its six working groups and additional expert groups has resulted in hundreds of policy recommendations over the years, across multiple disciplines and connected policy topics, such as (marine and terrestrial) protected areas and biodiversity protection, climate change and its impact on indigenous and local communities, shipping and emergency preparedness against oil spills.

Since the Arctic Council itself does not have any legislative powers, it depends on its individual member states to implement the recommendations. It is their task to bring the knowledge about the need of combined efforts to their national, subnational and local policies. It is the next step to bring the shared scientific insights from the (international) policy exchange back to national policies.

The Arctic Council Scorecards Approach

The Arctic Council Scorecards take a look at the efforts of the eight Arctic states: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark incl. Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and USA. The overview aims to identify areas in which additional efforts are needed to reach already agreed goals.

The 2019 iteration of the Scorecards streamlines the indicators and updates them to provide an up to date overview on the progress of Arctic States' policies on implementing specific recommendations agreed in the Arctic Council into their own policies, plans and regulations.

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